

## What is Claimed is:

- sub 1*
- [c1] A method of generating a clock signal on an integrated circuit (IC), the method comprising the steps of:  
generating a differential sinusoidal signal pair; and  
generating a clock signal from the differential pair for the IC.
- [c2] The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a clock signal includes supplying the differential pair to a differential amplifier.
- [c3] The method of claim 1, wherein the differential pair has a peak to peak differential of not more than about 150 mV.
- [c4] The method of claim 3, wherein the differential pair has a peak to peak differential of substantially 100 mV.
- [c5] The method of claim 1, further comprising routing the differential pair to a plurality of clock receivers.
- [c6] The method of claim 5, wherein the differential pair is routed in adjacent tracks.
- sub 1*
- [c7] The method of claim 1, further comprising applying clock gating at the clock receivers.
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- [c8] A method of driving a clock tree on an integrated circuit (IC), the method comprising the step of:  
providing an IC having a clock tree; and  
distributing a clock signal in the form of a differential sinusoidal signal pair in a portion of the clock tree.
- [c9] The method of claim 8, wherein the differential pair has a peak to peak differential of not more than about 150 mV.
- [c10] The method of claim 9, wherein the differential pair has a peak to peak differential of substantially 100 mV.
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- [c11] The method of claim 8, further comprising converting the differential sinusoidal signal pair to a local clock signal by using a differential amplifier.
- [c12] The method of claim 11 wherein the local clock signal has an amplitude substantially

equal to a power supply voltage, and the differential sinusoidal signal pair has a peak to peak differential that is substantially less than the amplitude of the local clock signal.

[c13]

A clock circuit for an IC, comprising:

- a generating circuit adapted to generate a differential sinusoidal <sup>signal</sup> pair;
- a distribution circuit coupled to the generating circuit and adapted to distribute the differential sinusoidal signal pair on the IC; and
- a plurality of clock receiver circuits coupled to the distribution circuit and adapted to convert the differential sinusoidal signal pair into respective local clock signals.

[c14]

The clock circuit of claim 13, wherein the local clock signals have an amplitude substantially equal to a power supply voltage, and the differential sinusoidal signal pair has a peak to peak differential that is substantially less than the amplitude of the local clock signals.

[c15]

The clock circuit of claim 14, wherein the peak to peak differential of the differential sinusoidal signal pair is less than half the amplitude of the local clock signals.

[c16]

The clock circuit of claim 15, wherein the peak to peak differential of the differential sinusoidal signal pair is less than one-fifth the amplitude of the local clock signals.

[c17]

The clock circuit of claim 16, wherein the peak to peak differential of the differential sinusoidal signal pair is less than one-tenth the amplitude of the local clock signals.

[c18]

The clock circuit of claim 13, wherein the differential pair has a peak to peak differential of not more than about 150 mV.

[c19]

The clock circuit of claim 18, wherein the differential pair has a peak to peak differential of substantially 100 mV.

[c20]

The clock circuit of claim 13, wherein each of the clock receiver circuits includes a differential amplifier.

[c21]

The clock circuit of claim 13 wherein the distribution circuit includes means for tuning a frequency response of the distribution circuit.

[c22]

Apparatus for generating and distributing a clock signal, comprising:  
means for generating a differential sinusoidal signal pair;

means for distributing the generated differential sinusoidal signal pair; and  
means for receiving the distributed differential sinusoidal signal pair and  
converting the received differential sinusoidal pair into a local clock signal.

- [c23] The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a clock splitter for splitting the local clock signal.
- [c24] The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the local clock signal has an amplitude substantially equal to a power supply voltage, and the differential sinusoidal signal pair has a peak to peak differential that is substantially less than the amplitude of the local clock signal.
- [c25] The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the peak to peak differential of the differential sinusoidal signal pair is less than half the amplitude of the local clock signal.
- [c26] The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the peak to peak differential of the differential sinusoidal signal pair is less than one-fifth the amplitude of the local clock signal.
- [c27] The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the peak to peak differential of the differential sinusoidal signal pair is less than one-tenth the amplitude of the local clock signal.
- [c28] The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the differential pair has a peak to peak differential of not more than about 150 mV.
- [c29] The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the differential pair has a peak to peak differential of substantially 100 mV.
- [c30] The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the means for receiving and converting includes a differential amplifier.

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